GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2232
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
REDUCTION IN ROAMING CHARGES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the roaming charges on mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to reduce the monthly rental as well;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to bring a zero-rental scheme for the benefit of the middle class-users;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (g) The roaming charges levied by different operators have to be within the ceiling tariff prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI after consultation with all the stakeholders and in-depth analysis has prescribed the following revised roaming tariff which has come into effect from 15.02.2007:

Rs. 1.40 per minute for outgoing local calls
Rs. 2.40 per minute for outgoing National Long Distance calls
Rs. 1.75 per minute for incoming calls
The other salient features prescribed while regional/national roaming are:
No rental permitted in any form;
No surcharge is leviable for any of the roaming services;
No separate PSTN charges on roaming calls;
Receiving SMS is free

The revised tariffs are lower to the extent of 22% to 56% compared with the then prevailing market rates. This is in addition to the saving for the customers on account of abolition of rentals.